

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, January 15, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
In the City Hall Council Chambers & Via Video-Conference
4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Mayor S. Minions
Councillor D. Dame
Councillor J. Douglas
Councillor D. Haggard
Councillor C. Mealey @ 6:19 pm
Councillor T. Patola
Councillor C. Solda

Staff: M. Fox, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
A. McGifford, Director of Finance
W. Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
J. MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure Services
E. Borovica, Project Manager
J. Pelech, Manager of Information Services
S. Darling, Deputy Director of Corporate Services/Recording Secretary

Gallery: 21

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the agenda be amended to include an item under 'New Business', H.6 | Warming Shelters. The agenda was then approved, as amended.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the meeting held at 6:00 pm on November 20, 2023, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

C. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Charlaine

Spoke regarding Global Climate Change initiatives.

N. Anderson

Commented on the letter sent by Council calling for ceasefire in Gaza.

R. Corbeil

Commented on ensuring the previous direction from Council to prepare a letter to Western Forest Products in support of the continued operation of the Alberni Pacific Division Sawmill is completed.

Laurie LaPlante

Spoke in support of the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society, train operations and the return of the logging show.

J. Leskosek

Commented on previous Regular Council meeting correspondence from School District 70 providing notification for sale of property. Requested increased pedestrian crosswalk timing at the intersection of Tebo Avenue and Johnston Road.

N. Anderson

Responded to Council comments made on his earlier input.

D. DELEGATIONS

1. North Island College

The following staff from North Island College presented an update on North Island College programs and campus planning in the region and college-wide:

- Colin Fowler, VP Facilities and College Services
- Marissa Bennett, Associate Director, Indigenous & Regional Partnerships and Port Alberni Campus Administrator
- Diane Naugler, Executive Director of Future Students and Community Engagement

Councillor Dame left the meeting at 7:06 pm and returned at 7:09 pm.

2. Vancouver Island Regional Library

Executive Director, Ben Hyman and Chair, Erin Hemmen presented [electronically] the Vancouver Island Regional Library Strategic Plan.

Councillor Haggard left the meeting at 7:39 pm and returned at 7:41 pm.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F. STAFF REPORTS

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Connect the Quays Pathway

Item paused at 8:06 pm to permit staff to gather additional information at the request of the Committee.

2. Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society (WVIHS)

The Committee invited members present in the gallery from the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society, President, Ron Corbeil and Vice-President, Richard Spencer to provide comment.

Councillor Douglas left the meeting at 8:30 pm and returned at 8:34 pm.

Mayor Minions left the meeting at 8:36 pm and returned at 8:45 pm.

The Committee invited Joleen Dick, CEO Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce to provide comment.

Councillor Mealey left the meeting at 8:48 pm and returned at 8:51 pm.

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole sever the resolutions related to Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society to permit consideration of resolutions individually.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council direct staff to enter into formal agreements with the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society regarding activities at the Roundhouse and McLean Mill.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council include \$125,000 as part of the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan discussion for the purpose of relocating the Two Spot locomotive to the Train Station.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council defer directing staff to act on any rail crossings, associated track, or provision grants for the operation of the Alberni Pacific Railway, until the results of the grant application to the Island Coastal Economic Trust are available to the public and full costing of all operational and capital needs for the next ten years are understood.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council direct staff to obtain a quote from the Municipal Insurance Association of BC to add the Western Vancouver Island Heritage Society as an Associate Member to the City's current insurance policy.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council direct staff to confirm with the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society [WVIIHS] any outstanding items from the third-party contractor's safety plan requirements and for the WVIIHS to provide the City with a quote for infrastructure replacement at the Old Time Logging Show for Council consideration during the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan review.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council direct staff to obtain a quote from Municipal Insurance Association of BC for insurance coverage for the Old Time Logging Show, and for the City to explore entering into a formal agreement with Mosaic for the purpose of accessing Mosaic's land for the Old Time Logging Show.

CARRIED

Councillor Haggard left the meeting at 9:27 pm and returned at 9:29 pm.

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council request that Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society prepare a community focused train operational plan for the first season featuring a speeder use and community events.

CARRIED

Council recessed the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Council resumed its meeting at 9:36 pm with all members of Council in attendance.

1. **Connect the Quays Pathway [RESUMED]**

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council approve the final \$1,253,411 in the 2024-2028 Financial Plan for the Connect the Quays Pathway project, ensuring the funding is available to action the project as planned and completing the third and final phase along Dry Creek and Roger Creek following the required policies.

CARRIED

3. **2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] AGM & Convention | Resolution Submission**

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to submit the following resolution for consideration at the 2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] AGM & Convention:

That AVICC & UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

And further, that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to submit the following resolution for consideration at the 2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] AGM & Convention:

That AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services OR alternatively, that the Province of British Columbia take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.

CARRIED

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to submit three additional resolutions for consideration at the 2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] AGM & Convention as it relates to equality in funding on Police Services, equality in funding on Library Services and increased funding for North Island College.

CARRIED

4. **RCMP Contract and Administrative Services | 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct funding within the 2024-2028 Financial Plan related to RCMP contract and administrative services as follows:
- *Fund 34 of 34 RCMP officers as per the contract commitment;*
 - *Allocate funds from Taxation to fund Community Policing services in 2024 onward.*
- DEFEATED**

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct funding within the 2024-2028 Financial Plan related to RCMP contract and administrative services as follows:

- *Fund 32 of 34 RCMP officers as per the contract commitment and as based on actual utilization;*
- *Allocate funds from the Emergency Reserve to fund Community Policing services in 2024, moving to taxation for the years 2025 forward.*

CARRIED

5. **Community Action Team**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council endorse establishment of a City administrative committee for the Port Alberni Community Action Team, and further recommend that the City obtain insurance coverage for appropriate members and volunteers.
- CARRIED**

6. **Warming Shelters**
The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update regarding warming shelters available within the community noting that the Bread of Life Centre is the current cold weather shelter operator located at 3130 3rd Avenue.

7. **Vancouver Island Regional Library**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that Council engage in further discussion prior to renewal of the lease between the City of Port Alberni and the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

8. **Technical Safety BC**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to contact Technical Safety BC to clarify what is required to operate on the short track route as proposed by the Alberni Pacific Railway.
- CARRIED**

I. QUESTION PERIOD

N. Anderson

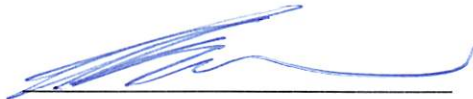
Inquired regarding how agenda items are determined for Committee of the Whole meetings, the Question Period process, potential for reinstatement of the Seniors' Advisory Committee, and the proposed Reserve Policy review.

J. ADJOURNMENT

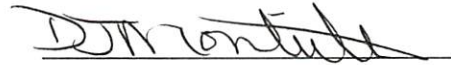
MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourn at 10:52 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT



Mayor



Corporate Officer